



Pharmacy
break-ins, p.10



Annual HUG
Walk, p.16

Election 2023

Answers to Question 2

The News Review once again asked candidates for election to the Greenbelt City Council to respond to questions posed by this newspaper. Answers are limited to 150 words. If an answer exceeds the limit, the answer is cut off at that point. Here are the answers we received to our second question.

Question 2. How would you increase civic participation in city government, particularly from residents in Greenbelt East and West?

Bill Orleans

Contrary to the image many in town have of ourselves, Greenbelt is not particularly a more progressive community than others, near or far. We think and act conventionally, if with a liberal tinge. Inheritors of a democratic, revolutionary tradition, how are we at ‘keeping’ our republic?

Much of the commentary in recent decades, on the loss of civic culture, has insufficiently noted that the loss has coincided with the growth of individual pursuits and “irresponsible” consumption. (I agree with Francis.)

Too few of us participate in city governance, from every part of town. For some, it’s a matter of not knowing or caring; for others, it’s a matter of logistics.

Council could (should) direct staff to facilitate, in different venues around town, more activities, food and child care provided, to grow connections of residents to residence. As necessary, transit could (should) be provided to the core of town for meetings.

James Whipple

The problem is that many of our citizens feel disenfranchised, causing them to not bother speaking up. The key to improv-

ing civic participation is revitalizing the trust between citizens and their local government. People want to feel heard, their concerns addressed both with immediate plans and ongoing efforts. For instance, if someone complains that their sidewalk is cracked, we should put out an immediate response to patch that crack, and we track the location and issue in a maintenance database to support a root cause analysis and fix any underlying issues. To build up this trust, direct civic engagement can be implemented on a small scale. Participatory budgeting is a process where a portion of the city budget is allocated to a project that is nominated and chosen entirely by citizens. If people see the direct outcome of their voice, they will learn that the city cares about their input.

Jenni Pompei

The key to increase civic participation in city government is education – residents need to know where and how to start. Quarterly information forums across the city, with councilmembers and staff, can inform residents about advisory boards, when and where regular meetings

See **QUESTION 2**, page 6

Greenbelt’s 19th Utopia Film Festival Opens This Weekend

by Susan Gervasi

The 19th Annual Utopia Film Festival will be held on Saturday, October 21 and Sunday, October 22, with 36 independent works at the New Deal Café, the Greenbelt Cinema and the Municipal Building.

The Festival, a project of Greenbelt Access Television (GATe) since 2005, offers features, documentaries, shorts and

animation from independent filmmakers around the world, across the nation and throughout the D.C. metropolitan region. This year’s many subjects include environmental threats, stories about complex human relationships, the psychological impact of Covid-19, the Vietnam War, the drama of “coming out” to one’s traditional family and a fight over some controversial New Deal murals.

Town Destroyer (4 p.m. Saturday, New Deal Café) documents a bitter 2019 battle over the fate of 13 Depression-era murals in a San Francisco high school. Images of slave-holding President George Washington, those he enslaved and defeated Native Americans raised hard questions for the city’s school board: Did the murals glorify enslaver Washington? Were they a veiled critique of American history? Should they be painted over or protected?

American history is also examined in An Afternoon at My

See **UTOPIA**, page 8



Two Rivers film poster

PHOTO COURTESY ANAIS TARACENA AND LAURA BERMUDEZ

Stop Work Order Shuts Down Royal Farms Site Clearing

by Bonnie Schrack

The Royal Farms project was put temporarily on hold October 13 due to a violation of city and county requirements for the preservation of a historic site.

Despite the opposition of the City of Greenbelt, the Prince George’s County Planning Board in 2020 approved the building of a Royal Farms store selling gas and fast-food chicken on Greenbelt Road. The development of the site has begun with the clearing of a large area of woodlands, as many Greenbelters will have noted when driving by and as pictured in the October 12 issue of this paper.



PHOTO BY BONNIE SCHRACK

A stop work order from the county lies on the ground near the construction entrance on Monday evening.

However, the planning approval given to Royal Farms was contingent on the builder’s observing a number of conditions,

one of which was the preservation of the historic Toaping Castle site.

The 64-acre plantation, patented in 1757, was originally built of logs. The home of Isaac Walker and his family expanded over the years into a larger wood-framed structure, the hub of a small plantation worked by those they enslaved, which reached a size of 169 acres. He and his descendants occupied it from the mid-1700s until 1933. In 1935, the property was purchased

by the federal government as part of the Greenbelt project. A

See **ROYAL FARMS**, page 8

Youthful Offenders Dominate Auto-related Crime Statistics

by Cathie Meetre

The big news of the Greenbelt City Council’s public safety briefing on Wednesday, October 11 was not unexpected. Crime is up overall by 34 percent, though violent crime has held steady compared to last year. The big driver for the increase is auto-related crime (465 percent higher than the same time last year, which was itself historically high). Auto theft has particularly escalated. In that category, vulnerable brands like Hyundai and Kia comprised 60 percent of vehicles stolen this year, though carjackings were down by 47 percent.

Citizen robberies (non-violent) increased from 31 to 42 a year to date over 2022. The geographical distribution of crimes remains typical, with more instances of all offences occurring to the west of Kenilworth Avenue.

Auto Crime and Juveniles

Juveniles are the perpetrators of much of the auto-related crime. Recent changes by Maryland in the treatment of juvenile

offenders essentially sends the youths back home, only to re-offend. Of 47 juvenile arrests, many individuals were re-arrested several times – some up to five times.

In response to a question from Councilmember Judith Davis, Deputy Chief Tim White, Greenbelt Police Department, estimated that the 47 arrests amounted to

perhaps half that number of separate offenders. With Maryland’s new legal process for juveniles, the punishment for an offence is six-month’s probation and for multiple offences, up to one year of probation. A felony carries one year of probation. Greenbelt Police Chief Richard Bowers

See **CRIME**, page 10



PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

Emilia Loo, dressed as Max from Where the Wild Things Are, leads her father, Ken Loo, dressed as a Wild Thing, through Roosevelt Center at the 2022 Wild Rumpus. See story, page 7.

Election 2023

Question 3. Greenbelt has a lot of unused office space and retail space. Are there ideas you’d suggest or support for filling or repurposing it?

We ask candidates to submit their answers to the News Review by 6 p.m. on Monday, October 23, preferably by email to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com. Answers will be limited to 150 words.

Letters to the Editor

A Thank You
To Our Neighbors

The members of Mishkan Torah would like to thank our Greenbelt neighbors for their show of support to us during the recent tragic events in Israel, including the flowers, verbal support and written messages, and the locals who joined us for services and events. We are grateful to be in community with you all and hope that you know we are there for all of you as well.

B’shalom (In Peace),
Mishkan Torah Congregation

Ranked Choice Voting

This year’s city council elections are unusually interesting, with a large (for Greenbelt) number of candidates and several retiring incumbents. But voters will still be given a very blunt tool with which to make their choice – a single mark next to the name of up to seven candidates. This means everyone you vote for is deemed equally good, and every-

one you reject must be uniformly bad. In reality, candidates have differing levels of experience and competence, and we should be able to reflect this in how we vote for them.

Such a system can be easily implemented through Ranked Choice voting. Instead of a single Yes or No, you get to rank the candidates in your order of preference: 1, 2, 3, Then at counting time, the “1” votes are given more weight than the “2” votes, etc. There are several ways of implementing RC, though a proper presentation of any of them is beyond the word limit of this letter; all offer a more honest, effective and safer approach to selecting a new council than the “bullet voting” hack many local voters currently employ.

Can we get a change to Ranked Choice Voting onto the ballot? I asked the city clerk about the procedure to follow back in 2021, but never received a reply.

Bernard Kelly



Petra Sanchez (bottom right) and friends enjoy a Spanish-language exercise class at Greenbelt Nutricentro on Cherrywood Lane.

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour

The cultural phenomenon continues on the big screen in this music documentary. Taylor Swift fans can immerse themselves in this once-in-a-lifetime concert film experience with a breathtaking, cinematic view of the history-making tour.

Killers of the Flower Moon

Based on David Grann’s broadly lauded best-selling book, the film, directed by Martin Scorsese, is set in 1920s Oklahoma and depicts the serial murder of members of the oil-wealthy Osage Nation, a string of brutal crimes that came to be known as the Reign of Terror. Among the film’s stars are Leonardo DiCaprio, Robert De Niro, Jess Plemons, Tantoo Cardinal and John Lithgow. Said critic David Sexton of the New Statesman: “This is grand, classic film-making, an American tragedy of the highest order.”

Pedro Almodóvar: 2 Short Films

A double feature of new short films by the incomparable Pedro Almodóvar. In The Human Voice, a woman watches time passing next to the suitcases of her ex-lover (who is supposed to come pick them up, but never arrives) and a restless dog who doesn’t understand that his master has abandoned him. The second film is Strange Way of Life, in which a man rides a horse across the desert that separates him from Bitter Creek. He comes to visit Sheriff Jake. Twenty-five years earlier, both the sheriff and Silva, the rancher who rides out to meet him, worked together as hired gunmen. Silva visits him with the excuse of reuniting with the friend from his youth, and they do indeed celebrate their meeting, but the next morning Sheriff Jake tells him that the reason for his trip is not to go down the memory lane of their old friendship.

Drop Us a Line!

Electronically, that is.
editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com

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Member kids are always FREE!
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Senior/Student/Military \$8
All shows before 5 PM:
Adults \$7, Kids \$5
OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:
OCTOBER 20th - 26th

Taylor Swift | The Eras Tour
(NR) (CC) (DVS) (2023) (165 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 8:00 PM
Sat. 7:00 PM
Sun. 6:00 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Thurs. 6:30 PM

Killers of the Flower Moon
(R) (CC) (DVS) (2023) (206 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 3:30 PM
Sun. 1:45 PM (OC)
Mon. 12:30 PM, 5:00 PM
Tues. 6:00 PM
Wed. 6:00 PM
Thurs. 6:00 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sat. 6:30 PM

Pedro Almodóvar: 2 Short Films! (R) (CC) (DVS) (2023) (61 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 4:30 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 5:30 PM, 7:45 PM
Sun. 6:30 PM
Mon. 12:45 PM, 5:15 PM
Tues. 6:15 PM
Wed. 6:15 PM
Thurs. 6:15 PM

Utopia Film Festival 2023
Information/tickets available
at utopiafilmfestival.org

PETE REPERT

GESUNDHEIT!

- News Review, October 21, 2021

Letters Policy during City Elections

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer’s name, physical address and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.

The News Review will not print letters endorsing candidates. The News Review will not print a letter raising a new issue the week prior to election day, when no other party would have a chance to respond.

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:
- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display Ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All Letters to the Editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified Ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.
Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center’s east door near the municipal building.

Community Events

Emancipation Day Film Screening

The Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee, in collaboration with the Greenbelt Cinema, is hosting a program to commemorate Emancipation Day in Maryland featuring a free showing of *Descendants*, a film about the last enslaved Africans brought illegally to Alabama. After the showing Evelyn Milton, a descendant of those taken to Alabama, and Melisande Short-Colomb, a descendant of the Georgetown University 272 enslaved people sold by the Jesuits to save the institution, will be present to provide updates and answer questions. The film will be shown on Saturday, November 4 at 2 p.m.

Other sponsors are the Greenbelt Recreation Department and Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness (RUAK).

Celebrate 20th Year Of the Forest Preserve

Join in the Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Greenbelt Forest Preserve on Sunday, October 29 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the New Deal Café. Put on your forest festive – hiking boots are most welcome. Come learn the story of how the Great North Woods were saved and became our Forest Preserve. Those who are actively caring for, protecting and speaking out for our forest will be recognized.

RSVP appreciated to suzanbwild@gmail.com or call 443-388-2961.



Writers Group Meets This Friday, Oct. 20

The Greenbelt Writers Group will meet Friday, October 20 at 7 p.m. at the Community Center. All Greenbelters interested in writing are invited to attend and meet new writers. It is suggested that attendees prepare a brief written presentation on autumn or another topic of their choice. For more information, contact Barbara Ford at Barb.ford@Comcast.net.

GATe Shows Council Candidate Videos

With the elections getting closer, Greenbelt Access Television (GATe) has produced a series of videos for all 11 candidates for the Greenbelt City Council and they are available for viewing now on the GATe channel and website. In the videos, each candidate was given three minutes to respond to the question, “What would you like to see council accomplish in its next two-year term?”

To view these videos on demand, visit greenbeltaccessstv.org, scroll down to WATCH and click on the YouTube link. In addition to their YouTube channel, GATe programming is available daily on Comcast channel 77 and Verizon FiOS channel 19. Their schedule is posted on their channel websites.

Free Kite Fly Offered Saturday, October 21

Children of all ages are invited to fly kites at Schrom Hills Park on Saturday, October 21 from 2 to 3 p.m., sponsored by Greenbelt Unplugged, The SPACE: Free Art For All and Greenbelt Rotary. Free kite kits and decorating supplies are available for children of all ages. No kite, no worries, there are many to share.



Repair Café at MakerSpace

The next Greenbelt MakerSpace Repair Café is Saturday, October 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. outside the Granite Building, 115 Centerway. Come learn how to repair your tired or broken stuff or help repair others’ items (experienced and novice volunteers needed). Bring clothing, furniture, appliances, computers, jewelry, toys, etc. for the challenge of making it useful again. See tools.greenbeltmakers.org for more information. Borrow tools and other things at the Tool Library on Saturdays 10 a.m. to noon and Sundays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Pumpkin Festival Starts this Weekend

Greenbelt’s Pumpkin Festival is hosting three pumpkin-carving events this year. The Festival provides the pumpkins, the carving tools and the candles to light up the jack-o-lanterns. These volunteer-hosted events are funded by donations and support from the Greenbelt Rotary Club. Participation is free.



Friday, October 20 at Roosevelt Center there will be pumpkin carving from 4 to 8 p.m. These pumpkins will appear in the North Woods, just off Northway and Ridge Road, on Saturday, October 21 for a pumpkin walk from 6 to 9 p.m.

Saturday, October 21 at Schrom Hills Park, there will be pumpkin carving from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. with the pumpkins featured in a pumpkin walk from 6 to 9 p.m. Carving participants can take home their pumpkin after the walk. This is part of Greenbelt’s Fall Fest and there will be fun activities for everyone.

Friday, October 27 at Springhill Lake Recreation Center there will be pumpkin carving beginning at 3:30 p.m. Participants will take their carved pumpkins home to light up the neighborhood.

The Festival needs volunteers for all three events for advance planning, fundraising, making posters, acquiring and transporting pumpkins (both pre- and post-carving), helping with carving, helping with clean-up, helping to arrange entertainment at the events and many other tasks.

Volunteer by emailing greenbeltpumpkinfestival@gmail.com with the subject line: Volunteer.

Find information on facebook. [com/GreenbeltPumpkinFestival](https://www.facebook.com/GreenbeltPumpkinFestival). Questions can be directed to greenbeltpumpkinfestival@gmail.com.

Sacred Ground Dates Now Set

The Sacred Ground dialogue circle is designed as a safe space for difficult but respectful and transformative dialogue on race and racism. This 11-session series is set to begin Sunday, October 29 and finish in April 2024. Registration is still open. All sessions are 4 to 6 p.m. on Sundays, in-person in Greenbelt. Contact Jim Fischer at jfischer2@verizon.net for the list of dates, to ask questions and to sign up. Curriculum details are at episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground. Preparation for each session includes watching 90 minutes of video and reading 35 pages of materials, all available online.

At the Library

The Greenbelt Library is open Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m.

Storytimes

Friday, October 20, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmpls.info/event/9020758.

Monday, October 23, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at pgcmpls.info/event/9020746.

Wednesday, October 25, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmpls.info/event/9020828.

Hatchlings: Ready to Hatch

Saturday, October 21, 11 a.m., ages 18+ (adult). Hatchlings: Ready to Hatch is an interactive early literacy program for expectant parents. Learn more about your baby-to-be through songs and fun activities. Registration is required at pgcmpls.info/event/8969010.

Toastmasters Meet

The Greenbelt Toastmasters Club invites all to join them online every first, third and fifth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The club provides a fun and friendly environment for anyone interested in improving their public speaking and leadership skills. Learn more at greenbelt.toastmastersclubs.org.

Star Party Saturday, Oct. 21 at Observatory

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will host a star party, free and open to the public, on Saturday, October 21 at the City Observatory located at Northway Fields. Attendees can expect to see the moon, Saturn, Jupiter and deep sky objects such as galaxies, nebulae and star clusters currently high in the sky, viewed through the observatory telescope and astronomical camera. All are welcome and there is no charge. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own telescopes to set up on the hilltop.

Observing will begin at 7:30 p.m. and continue for two hours. Attendees are asked to park in the ballfield lot, not up on the hill, unless bringing a telescope. The star party will be canceled without notice if it is hopelessly cloudy.

Astronomical Society To Meet October 26

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt (ASG) will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 26 in Room 114 of the Community Center. ASG member Sue Bassett will give a presentation on The Drake Equation. The meeting is free and open to the public.

This is a hybrid in-person/Zoom meeting. A Zoom link will be posted before the event at greenbeltastro.org/events.

Church Offers Festive Evening

On Saturday, November 4, join neighbors for a festive evening at Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ. The evening starts with a spaghetti dinner from 5 to 6:30 p.m., followed by a live entertainment extravaganza from 6:45 to 8 p.m. The entertainment will include the premiere of Amy S. Hansen’s short comic play, *Parking Garage from Hell*. A free-will donation will be accepted at the door, and all proceeds go to support local charities.

Written and Performed by Christopher DePamphilis

OCTOBER 6 – 21

8PM FRIDAYS
8PM SATURDAYS
2PM SUNDAYS*

*FACEMASKS REQUIRED FOR 10/15 MATINEE.

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TH 10/19	FRI 10/20	SAT 10/21	SUN 10/22	
SONGWRITER'S SUMMIT Featuring Dirk Hamilton and Georgie Jessup 7-9pm	Samhain with The Pilgrims of Deep Run 8-11pm Baltimore-based Irish group	UTOPIA FILM FESTIVAL* 11am - 4pm The Paulverizers 8-11pm Hard drivin' blues	UTOPIA FILM FESTIVAL* 9am - 4pm Eleanor's New Deal Cabaret 6-8pm W/ D'Manda Martini	
MON 10/23	TUES 10/24	WED 10/25	TH 10/26	SPECIALS!
Sad Veiled Bride/ Tim Holehouse/ Teething Veils Show 6-9pm THREE amazing bands in ONE night!	Tunes Tuesday with Michael Trouserpants 6:15 - 9:30pm Express Yourself!	Kim's Grand Round 7-9pm Songwriters perform their songs	In Tone Nation 7-9pm Classics and roots rock, with some funky ol' soul	HAPPY HOUR 4-7pm \$1 OFF BEER AND WINE WINE WEDNESDAY \$1 OFF PER GLASS \$5 OFF A BOTTLE

Join or renew your membership. Go to www.newdealcafe.com, click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW."
**For more information on these and other events, visit the NDC CALENDAR page on our website.*
FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.

GREENBELT ACCESS TELEVISION
Community-Driven Storytelling

Greenbelt Access Television
Oct. 21, Sat - Oct. 27, Fri
Verizon FiOS Channel 19 • Comcast 77
(School Programming on Your Cable Guide)
Streaming on www.greenbeltaccessstv.org

THIS WEEK on GATe • Your Community Access Station
Featured Film (9am, 3pm, and 8pm)
Carnival of Souls (1962)
Riddled with themes of sinister magic and psychological thrills amidst a carnival backdrop, a la *Something Wicked This Way Comes*. Step right up for this indie-horror classic!

New This Month
Meet Eli Lev
Eli Lev is a born-and-raised Maryland resident who has recently graced us with a performance at the New Deal Cafe last month, and stopped by our studio to give an exclusive interview and performance!

All this and more on the GATe channel this week! Check greenbeltaccessstv.org for the full broadcast schedule, and visit *Greenbelt Access Television* on YouTube for new video productions.

St. Hugh 19th Annual Oktoberfest

by Christopher Irwin

The annual Oktoberfest celebration returned to St. Hugh's Catholic Church on Saturday, October 14. Dormant during the Covid-19 pandemic, the observance, open to the parish and public, featured traditional Bavarian-style cuisine, music by Phil Ventura and a raffle for attendees.

In addition to parishioners and other Greenbelt residents, guests of the event included Greenbelt Mayor Emmett Jordan, and Prince George's County Councilmember Ingrid S. Watson. Both were on hand to enjoy the sauerkraut, pork roast, half chicken, lentils and noodles, goulash soup, potato soup and sausages prepared by and with the supervision of Silke Pope, longtime member of the St. Hugh parish.

This was the first opportunity for Watson to attend. The former Bowie councilmember had been coming to Greenbelt for many years and was drawn to the event by its reputation. "It's all about community and it's really important to fellowship and coming together as neighbors and family, especially in a setting like this," Watson said, enjoying her goulash soup. "It's nice that people came out. It's even better to fellowship in person than over Zoom."

Jordan, a participant of many Oktoberfests of the past, was equally pleased to see people return to the event calling it an important part of the fabric and history of Greenbelt. "It's incredibly good food, good people and a lot of fun," he said. Noting the positivity of the movement toward greater social engagement, Jordan expressed the need for continued caution. Overall, he seemed encouraged by increased social interaction stating, "The civility is coming back."

In addition to the efforts of Pope, Oktoberfest at St. Hugh is supported by the members of the Knights of Columbus who assist



From left, Robert Snyder, Annie McFarland, Karen McFarland, Tick Mangum, Jim Harbaugh, Rita Rock and Rich Rock attend St. Hugh's Oktoberfest on October 14.



From left, Beverly Dzdich, County Councilmember Ingrid Watson, George Matthews and Mayor Emmett Jordan attend the Oktoberfest.

with all aspects of set-up, food preparation and cleanup.

- Photos by Chris Irwin

Greenbelt Community Church Donation Drive

The Greenbelt Community Church will collect clothing and small hard goods on Saturday, October 28 from 8 a.m. to noon and Sunday, October 29 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Place soft goods in plastic bags, hard goods in boxes that one person could carry and books in their own boxes. Oversized items cannot be accepted. Donations will be taken to Value Village, which pays the church. The church uses the funds to help local charities.

The church is located at 1 Hillside Road. For questions, contact Greenbelt Community Church office@greenbeltucc.org.

Mishkan Torah Invites All to Sunday @ MT

Mishkan Torah invites all to join its community for their first Sunday @ MT, on October 22 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. On offer will be a book club, birdwatching, a current events discussion, a playgroup for kids, and bagels and coffee. All are welcome to join in to get to know this community in a casual, fun setting. To register and provide suggestions, click on "Activities on Sunday Oct. 22" at mishkantorah.org.

Our Neighbors

Congratulations to Greenbelt City Councilmembers Ric Gordon and Kristen Weaver for their completion of certification in the University of Maryland Academy of Excellence in Local Governance.

Send details of your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

Memorials Planned For Robert Lewis

A Memorial Service for Robert Lewis will be held at the River Road Unitarian Congregation, 6301 River Road in Bethesda on Thursday, October 26 at 11 a.m. If interested in transportation from Greenbelt to Bethesda email revs.lew@gmail (subject line Transportation) by Monday, October 23 for more information.

A Remembering Robert Lewis event will be held at the Greenbelt American Legion on Saturday, October 28 from 2 to 4 p.m.



2023 National Race Amity Conference

November 9-11 in-person in Atlanta
Join with thought leaders & activists



Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

www.greenbeltbahais.org

Mishkan Torah Congregation



10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

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Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church



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October 22, 2023 at 3:00
What's Your Pleasure?

Rev. Anthony Jenkins with Worship Associate Jacqui Walpole

Chaplain Anthony Jenkins will lead us in a service exploring life's relationships and the vested interests we often unknowingly bring into them. Together we'll consider the not-so-obvious ways in which emotional roots from our past branch out into our present-day actions and interactions.

This service will be available to those who attend on Zoom and in person at 3:00 at University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD


St. John's Episcopal/Anglican Church

11040 Baltimore Avenue Beltsville, MD 20704
301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org

The Reverend Joseph M. Constant, Rector
Join us for In-Person Worship every Sunday at 10 AM
Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM

To view services online:
Go to https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsZionParish/Live/
Other services online via Zoom: Wednesday Noonday;
Thursday Bible Study and Compline 7 PM via Zoom
Please contact the church office if you are interested in any of these resources.

Our Mission: To share God's love with everyone to bring hope and change lives.



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY of GREENBELT

MASS

Sundays 10:00 a.m.
City Council Room
25 Crescent Road

ALL ARE WELCOME!

OR - Join us on ZOOM!
For ZOOM link:
FDeBernardo@aol.com

Greenbelt BAPTIST CHURCH

Christ-centered
Biblical
& Reformed

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am
Sunday School 9:15am
Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD
www.greenbeltbaptist.org



Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors

Find us on  [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)

301-474-9410

Pastor Evelyn Romero

In-Person Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

Come as you are



The Bible Says...

The Ten Commandments

#7-You Shall Not Commit Adultery

Exodus 20:14



IN PERSON Sunday Worship Services

10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School
(66 Ridge Rd.)

MCFcc.org

Greenbelt Community Church

One Hillside Road

We are an
Open and Affirming
Church



Join Us Sunday

10:15 AM

for Worship and Church School

www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

ST. HUGH OF GRENABLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
- Sunday Mass:
 - Sat vigil 5pm*
 - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm.

Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

*Live streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.

CELEBRATE WITH US

135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org





City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING

Monday, October 23, 2023 at 7:30 pm

ORGANIZATION

Call to Order
Roll Call
Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
Petitions and Requests
Consent Agenda - Approval of Staff Recommendations (Items on the Consent Agenda [marked by *] will be approved as recommended by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.)
Approval of Agenda and Additions

COMMUNICATIONS

Presentations

- Forest Preserve 20 Year Anniversary Proclamation
- Maryland Economic Development Week Proclamation
- National Blindness Awareness Month
- ARPA Status Update
- Maryland Main Street Affiliate Program for Roosevelt Center (Virtual presentation will be conducted by Christine McPherson of Maryland DHCD)
- * Minutes of Council Meetings
- Administrative Reports
- * Committee Reports

LEGISLATION

OTHER BUSINESS

- Northway Gate Installation & Manage Dumping
- PGCMA Legislative Action Request
- Purchase of (2) Trailer Cameras
- Council Activities
- Council Reports
- Re/Appointment to Advisory Board
- * Meetings
- * Stakeholders

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

MEETINGS FOR OCTOBER 23 - 27

Tuesday, October 24 at 6:30 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**, On the Agenda: Meeting with PTA Presidents, Minutes of September Meeting, Grants Discussion

Wednesday, October 25 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - CITY MANAGER'S QUARTERLY UPDATE**

Wednesday, October 25 at 7:30 pm, **SPECIAL MEETING / CLOSED SESSION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORK SESSION**

Thursday, October 26 at 7 pm, **FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD**, On the Agenda: Goddard Branch Trail Volunteer Preliminary Discussion, Implementing Trails Plan, Pumpkin Walk Follow-Up, FBAB Priorities for the Future

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.

FALL FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 21, 2 - 5 pm

Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane

Join us for our annual fall festival, presented by Greenbelt Recreation! With games, moon bounces, pumpkin decorating, hayrides, food, music, and more, you won't want to miss out on all the fun! For more information, call Greenbelt Recreation at (301) 397-2200. In case of inclement weather, call our weather hotline (301) 474-0676.

SPONSOR THE 2023 GOBBLE WOBBLE 5K FAMILY RUN & WALK

Greenbelt Recreation is seeking local businesses and organizations interested in supporting the Gobble Wobble and its continued success.

Sponsorships range from \$100 - \$500. Depending on sponsor level, sponsorships may include logo placement on advertisements, on shirts, promotional materials, and more! If your business or organization is interested in sponsoring this year's Gobble Wobble, please contact Recreation at (301) 397-2200 or by email at aphelan@greenbeltmd.gov.

All sponsorships must be received by Monday, October 30.

LEAF VACUUM SCHEDULE | FALL 2023-2024

The City Public Works Department will again collect loose leaves from the following areas with the leaf vacuum from October 30, 2023 until January 2024. We remind residents to rake the leaves to the curb, but not into the street, and to remove all sticks and stones from the pile as these can damage the machinery. Areas to be collected will be posted as in past years. We also remind residents NOT to park in front of leaf piles.

OCTOBER 30 - NOVEMBER 3

Lakeside,
Greenspring I & II

NOVEMBER 6 - 9

Boxwood

NOVEMBER 20 - 22

Lakewood

NOVEMBER 27 - DECEMBER 1

Lakeside,
Greenspring I & II

DECEMBER 4 - 8

Boxwood

DECEMBER 11 - 15

Woodland Hills

DECEMBER 18 - 22

Lakewood,
Greenspring I & II

DECEMBER 26 - 29

Lakeside

OFFICIAL NOTICE

In accordance with Section 3-305(b)(1) and (7) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland, a closed session of the Greenbelt City Council will be held on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, immediately following the Council Work Session – City Manager, in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building: 1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; 2) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter.

The purpose of this meeting is 1) to address personnel matters over which this public body has jurisdiction. 2) to consult with legal counsel regarding outstanding legal matters.

*** The public may attend the Council Work Session prior to the closed session and observe the vote of the Council to move into the closed session on Wednesday, October 25, 2023.**

Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

CITY ELECTION INFORMATION

TRANSPORTATION TO POLLING PLACES

On Tuesday, November 7, 2023, the Greenbelt Connection will provide free transportation to polling locations for City voters between the hours of 8:30 am and 3:30 pm. Citizens who wish to avail themselves of this service should call:

GREENBELT CONNECTION: (301) 474-4100

to schedule their transportation. In addition, the City bus will make scheduled pick-ups at

GREEN RIDGE HOUSE AT 10:30 AM AND 2:30 PM

and will return to Green Ridge House after the voters have cast their ballots at the Community Center.

CITY ELECTION INFORMATION

As required by Section 14 of the City Charter, Greenbelt will hold a regular City Election on

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023

Polls will be open from 7 am to 8 pm

Any qualified registered voter with an address within the corporate limits of the City of Greenbelt may vote in City elections.

If you have any questions regarding the upcoming election, please call the City offices at (301) 474-8000, use Maryland Relay (711), or send an email to the City Clerk at banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

A sample ballot is available on a flier at the Municipal Building and on the City website at www.greenbeltmd.gov.

CITY ELECTION INFORMATION

EARLY AND MAIL-IN VOTING
ANY REGISTERED GREENBELT VOTER
MAY CHOOSE TO VOTE BY
EARLY VOTING or VOTE BY
MAIL-IN
NO MORE EXCUSES!

EARLY VOTING: Any qualified voter of the City of Greenbelt may choose to vote by EARLY VOTING.

EARLY VOTING DATES AND LOCATIONS

Greenbelt Community Center –
(15 Crescent Road)

Saturday, November 4, 10 am – 3 pm
Sunday, November 5, 10 am – 3 pm

Schrom Hills Park Clubhouse –
(6915 Hanover Parkway)

Saturday, November 4, 10 am – 3 pm
Sunday, November 5, 10 am – 3 pm

Springhill Lake Recreation Center –
(6101 Cherrywood Lane)

Saturday, November 4, 10 am – 3 pm
Sunday, November 5, 10 am – 3 pm

SAMPLE BALLOT

Greenbelt City Election
November 7, 2023

COUNCILMEMBER /
VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN SEVEN (7) /

- ☐ RIC B. GORDON
- ☐ MATTHEW A. INZEO
- ☐ JENNIFER A. POMPI
- ☐ RODNEY M. ROBERTS
- ☐ MOSES N. SEKATAWA
- ☐ JAMES R. WHIPPLE
- ☐ WILLIAM A. ORLEANS
- ☐ EMMETT V. JORDAN
- ☐ KRISTEN L. K. WEAVER
- ☐ DANIELLE P. MCKINNEY
- ☐ SILKE I. POPE

ADVISORY QUESTION ON VOTING BY RESIDENT NONCITIZENS
Shall Section 15 ("Voters") of the Charter of the City of Greenbelt be amended to read as follows: (Note: Underlining indicates language to be added to the City Charter. [Brackets indicate language to be removed.]

A qualified voter within the meaning of this charter shall be [any person] any citizen of the United States who is a resident of the City of Greenbelt and [who] is duly registered with Prince George's County under [the] applicable provisions of [Article 33 of the Annotated Code of Maryland; if not a U.S. citizen, then a resident registered to vote with the City Clerk] provided that eligibility to vote in any City election shall be subject to applicable [registration deadlines as set forth] law in the Charter and Code of the City.

Charter Amendment Question:
"Should Greenbelt residents who meet residency requirements but are not U.S. citizens be allowed to vote in City elections?"

- ☐ FOR the Charter Amendment /
- ☐ A FAVOR de la Enmienda a la Carta
- ☐ AGAINST the Charter Amendment /
- ☐ EN CONTRA de la Enmienda a la Carta

CITY ELECTION INFORMATION

Dates & Deadlines for 2023 City Council Elections

Second interim Campaign Contributions & Expenditures Report (by 12 pm)	10/27
Early voting begins	11/04
Training session for election judges and clerks	11/06
Election (7 am - 8 pm)	11/07
Mail-in ballots must be received (by 6 pm)	11/07
Final Campaign Contributions & Expenditures Report (12 pm)	11/10
Charter meeting for swearing-in (7:30 pm)	11/13

For additional information, contact Bonita Anderson, City Clerk, at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.



COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the **Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, the Youth Advisory Committee, or the Advisory Committee on Education, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Elections, Community Relations Advisory Board, Employee Relations Advisory Board, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, or the Park and Recreation Advisory Board** and make a difference in Greenbelt!

By dedicating your time and expertise, you will help shape the future of Greenbelt and create a community that values the voices of all its residents. Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.

ELECTRONICS & STYROFOAM RECYCLING

Saturday, October 28

9 am - 12 pm

Public Works Yard,

555 Crescent Road

NO PAINT RECYCLING

NO Alkaline Batteries or CFLs

NO Tube TVs

Questions?

Call (301) 474-8004

BUDDY ATTICK PARK MASTER PLAN MEETING

November 15 at 7 PM

Council Chambers,

Municipal Building

Agenda: Survey results, park analysis/assessment, concept approaches, public feedback.

BRING YOUR OWN BAG ORDINANCE

Effective January 1, 2024, the City of Greenbelt's Bring Your Own Bag bill aims to reduce single-use plastic bag waste and litter in our local waterways and tributary system.

The Bring Your Own Bag Bill will prohibit a retail establishment from providing a plastic carryout bag to shoppers and can charge at least 10 cents for each paper bag provided to a customer at the point of sale.

The City of Greenbelt recommends the use of reusable bags, defined as: A bag with stitched handles specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuses, made of cloth or other washable fabric; a durable material suitable for multiple re-use that is NOT made of plastic film.

For more information on this bill, visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/BYOB.

QUESTION 2 continued from page 1

and events are hosted, instruction on how to sign up for email and text notifications from the city and give citizens the opportunity to share what they need to become more involved.

Greenbelt must meet citizens where they live because it gives them more access and shows these residents the city cares about their issues and opinions. Occasionally holding council meetings and worksessions in different areas of the city may also increase participation, particularly for those residents for whom transportation is a barrier.

Increasing communication is also vital. Establishing better communication with property management, condo boards and homeowners' associations could help disseminate more information.

Matthew Inzeo

The tradition of civic participation defines Greenbelt. We have committees for everything, including some that other cities never imagined. Even so, we need citizen participation on important problems right now. Ideas:

Crime. Neighborhood-level Cops with Coffee meetings of citizens and police on ways to reduce crime.

Recreation. Meetings with recreation leaders and parents on improving recreation facilities and programs.

Representation. Facilitating a Greenbelt West Advisory Committee, like the long-standing Greenbelt East Advisory Committee, combining new communities with Franklin Park's neighborhoods.

Youth participation. More emphasis on civic participation of young people, especially our Eleanor Roosevelt students, including the Youth Advisory Committee (on which I served, while at ERHS).

Voter participation. Voting in city elections, especially in Greenbelt East and West, has historically lagged. Every Greenbelt voter, including teens 16+ registered to vote, can confront that problem by voting on November 7. "Greenbelt is Great," but it could use a little help.

Ric Gordon

This question truly hits home for me because for nearly a decade I have been working to strengthen engagement throughout our city. Long before I was elected to council in 2021, I started Greenbelt Voices Rising in November of 2017 to increase engagement and outreach to raise

the engagement of both Greenbelt East and West. I have sponsored events through GBVR such as annual voter empowerment and outreach rallies that focused on municipal and voting importance to increase registration. I have worked to bring other sponsors to hold outreach events such as pride fest, school supply giveaways and holiday events promoting to all Greenbelters to show we are One Greenbelt East, West and Center. I plan to continue the work I have already been doing to spread awareness of the importance of getting involved with our local government and city activities through volunteerism on boards, committees and commissions.

Silke Pope

Civic participation by residents can be increased by residents knowing how to contact city council, city management and city committees. We need to encourage residents to voice their ideas and concerns to these civic organizations through multiple channels. But civic participation isn't just about communicating with political bodies. Civic participation is about engaging with your community in whatever way that is meaningful to you. Whether political, social or recreational, we need to inspire not only adult participation but child and youth participation. As I have worked a long time in the educational field at both Greenbelt Middle School and Springhill Lake Elementary, I have continually promoted civic participation to my students. Children will eventually be the next generation to govern our community, so the earlier they are encouraged to participate in any and all civic groups that interest them, the healthier our community will be in the future.

Danielle McKinney

As a Greenbelt West resident, my goal is to meet residents where they are, know who they are, what they need and build connections showing how they can participate civically. I'd like to help illuminate the views and beliefs of our culturally diverse community and why, when and how people engage civically. I would prioritize holding meetings, town halls and activities and expand city facilities in Greenbelt East and West creating greater inclusion and equity.

People are engaged and learn best from small bite-sized pieces of information. I would find creative ways to streamline and communicate city activities and highlight ways people serve. I

would use digital storytelling and art projects to share civic engagement in ways that work for residents' busy lifestyles.

Finally I'd work with local businesses to promote the importance of voting in city elections and work with organizations to ensure translators and literacy support is available.

Kristen Weaver

My ideas for increasing civic participation fall in two categories: (1) meeting people where they are, and (2) reducing barriers to participation. Meeting people where they are includes in a physical sense, in places and at events where Greenbelters gather in East and West, rather than expecting them to come to us, for example to council meetings. It also means in a communication sense, by improving our multi-language communications and developing more channels through HOAs, apartment management and community groups, as well as considering commissioning a community survey with truly representative sampling. Hybrid meetings are one way to reduce barriers to participation, but we should explore how to make those meetings more accessible. We also need to look at barriers preventing even geographical representation on city advisory boards and committees, such as transportation, meeting timing, access to child care or simply needing more information about what such a commitment entails.

Emmett Jordan

Better communication is needed to increase civic participation. Greenbelt's diverse neighborhoods are more complex than a simple east-west-central division. There are 15 or more distinct neighborhoods in Greenbelt.

We must engage more with homeowner & condominium associations, GHI and apartment development management to improve resident participation. Programs must be offered at convenient times and locations with evening and weekend options distributed throughout Greenbelt, not just in the center.

Here are several inclusive strategies to engage residents:

Ensure two-way communication (listening, not just talking at residents).

Provide multilingual communications.

Keep print newsletters/fliers for residents who do not use computers.

Improve the city website (better search functions and easier to find employee/department contacts).

Prioritize social media for short, time-sensitive messaging.

Use targeted emails/texts for specific interests/audiences.

Finally, our ARPA Community Group grants should yield results that improve civic engagement.

Senior Nutrition Program Luncheon

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunch for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at 11:30 a.m. Note the updated start time. Meals must be reserved two weeks ahead so that enough food is ordered. Participants must complete a registration form in person at the Community Center office, on Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. There is a suggested donation. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215 with questions.

Two menu options, one vegetarian, will be offered for each luncheon. All meals, which provide at least one third of recommended dietary allowances for older adults, include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk.

Election 2023 Options for Returning Your Mail-in Ballot

1. Send it through the U.S. mail in time to arrive by November 6 to:
Bonita Anderson, City Clerk
25 Crescent Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770
 2. Place it in the locked drop-box at the east door of the Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road.
 3. Or, place it in the drop box at one of the following locations:
Greenbelt Police Station, 550 Crescent Road
Schrom Hills Park Clubhouse, 6915 Hanover Parkway
Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane
- Due: Tuesday, November 7 by 6 p.m.



Fall Auto Sale

Rates as low as 4.9% apr*



Great rate to purchase or refinance your auto

Call us at 301-474-5900 for more information or visit us at www.greenbeltfcu.com

COOPERATIVES COMMIT DIVERSITY EQUITY INCLUSION

Greenbelt Federal Credit Union

112 Centerway, Roosevelt Center

*apr=annual percentage rate. Rate subject to change without notice. Rate based on credit.

International Observe the Moon Night

OCTOBER 21 2023



Join the global celebration!

Look at the Moon

Attend an event

Host your own

Watch Moon videos

Create Moon-inspired art

Start a Moon observation journal

Listen to Moon-themed music

and more...

moon.nasa.gov/observe

#ObserveTheMoon



* publicity in memory of Craig Tooley
NASA Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) Project Manager

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MELANIE CANTWELL

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Council Approves ARPA Spending and Reallocation

by Diane Oberg

Spending and reporting on spending the funds received from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was a major theme at the October 9 regular meeting of the Greenbelt City Council. In addition, council considered the state’s Consolidated Transportation Plan for 2024 through 2029.

ARPA Actions

Council approved the proposed bicycle and pedestrian project list to be completed using ARPA funds; most, but not all are related to the city’s Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan. The estimated cost of the projects totals \$274,400 but a number of the projects do not yet have estimated costs. Council had allocated \$300,000 in ARPA funds toward this use, so not all of the projects on the list may be implemented, particularly as costs for some items have increased significantly.

Reallocation

Council also approved a reallocation of some ARPA funds from projects that city staff do not believe will be completed in time to comply with ARPA requirements (all moneys must be obligated by December 2024 and all direct grants and work completed by city staff must be completed by then; any contracted work must be completed by December 2026). Any unspent funds must be returned to the Treasury Department.

The money received is in two pots: lost revenue and ARPA. The lost revenue funds can be used for any purpose while the ARPA funds are limited to Covid-related purposes.

City staff had reviewed the existing projects, looked at spending versus estimates and the likelihood that the projects could be completed by the deadlines, and identified \$2.35 million that could be reallocated to other projects/purchases. They identified 19 possible projects to which the reallocated funds could be applied and ranked them into three prior-

ity groupings.

Council agreed that all priority one projects should be funded. These are a new refuse packer, a loader, a Human Resources information system, five police cars, flooring to convert a room in the Community Center to a facility that can withstand tap dancing, and repairs to the indoor pool deck.

Councilmembers generally agreed with several of the priority two projects including portable radios for the police department although they and the chief were a little stunned at the \$0.5 million cost, a license-plate reader camera network, two portable message boards to be shared by the police and public works departments (such as is used by the State Highway Administration) and a pool splash pad for younger users of the pool.

More controversial was a water station for the dog park, a project long urged by Councilmember Silke Pope. Having water for the dogs was generally supported but Councilmember Kristen Weaver balked at the \$120,000 cost. She suggested looking to see if a rain barrel and filtration system or some other alternative would work just as well. Councilmember Rodney Roberts also objected to that expenditure. In the end council added the \$120,000 to the reallocation list but with the stipulation that staff first research alternatives. Pope was concerned that this research could take so long that the proposed project cannot be completed.

Resident Bob Rand, who noted that slightly more than half of the funds to be reallocated were pulled from social programs such as grants, objected to most of the reprogramming going to equipment purchases, rather than people. Bill Orleans called on the city to establish a fund as part of the regular budget to meet human needs beyond 2024 that is

broader than rental and mortgage assistance.

Council agreed that the ARPA status list should be reviewed regularly with a look to see where additional programs could be funded. Weaver suggested that council think about which of the projects/programs were successful enough that they should consider using other funds to continue post-ARPA as part of the regular city budget. Councilmember Judith Davis hoped that health vouchers and the two business grant programs could be continued.

Pope stressed the need to find revenue sources beyond property tax to fund programs. She also called for the city to provide a narrative on its website to tell the true story of how the ARPA funds were distributed.

Business Grants

Economic Development Manager Kevin Simpson reported that his office has awarded 10 \$30,000 Business Improvement and Recovery Fund grants, with more expected. In addition, four \$50,000 Business Capital Infrastructure Fund grants have been awarded with more grants to come.

Stage

Council approved a staff request to use ARPA funds

See ARPA, page 12

Prepare for the Wild Rumpus

by Rebecca Squire

The Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program invites families and children of all ages to attend a joyful celebration of creative transformation in Roosevelt Center. The Wild Rumpus Halloween event returns this year on Friday, October 27, starting at 4:30 p.m.

To prepare for the Rumpus, attend free workshops for ages 5 to adult on Sunday, October 22 from 2 to 3:15 p.m. Learn a group dance to perform at the Rumpus and make a musical shaker that can be incorporated into the dance. Register in advance at Greenbelt Recreation ARTS: Pre-Rumpus Shaker and Dance Workshops (signupgenius.com/go/409084babab2ba4ff2-wild2). Walk-ups are also welcome as space permits.

At the Wild Rumpus, guests are invited to show off their Halloween or cosplay costumes, dance and trick-or-treat with Roosevelt Center merchants and organizations. Enjoy a performance by the Greenbelt S.I.T.Y. Stars performance jump-rope team and cheer on the arrival of some friendly monsters created by community volunteers at the Wild Rumpus giant puppet build. Round out the visit with a free screening of the short film Toy Story of Terror at the Greenbelt Cinema.

Greenbelt Recreation requests that costumes not contain violent or gory imagery and appreciates



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Kaleb Lambert enjoys the 2022 Wild Rumpus.

help in creating a peaceful and welcoming atmosphere for all guests.

Those using GPS to locate the event may wish to input 161 Centerway, Greenbelt, which is the Greenbelt Sunoco Station. Centerway itself will be closed to vehicle traffic, but drivers can enter the parking lot by the Sunoco Station and the Co-op Supermarket.

In case of heavy rain, the Wild Rumpus will be rescheduled for Monday, October 30 at 4:30 p.m. For recorded program status information, call 301-474-0646.

City of Greenbelt arts programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council. For more program information, visit greenbeltmd.gov/arts.

REMEMBERING ROBERT

There will be two occasions to remember Robert Lewis. You are invited to attend one or both of these:

A Memorial Service will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, October 26 at the River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Bethesda.

If interested in transportation from Greenbelt to Bethesda, email revs.lew@gmail.com by Monday, October 23 for more information.

A Remembering Robert event will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, October 28 at the Greenbelt American Legion.

Greenbelt Makerspace Repair Café

Saturday October 21 from 10 am - 2 pm

outside the Granite Bldg, 115 Centerway

Come learn how to repair your tired or broken stuff or help repair others' items (experienced and novice volunteers needed). Bring your clothing, furniture, appliances, computers, jewelry, toys, etc. for the challenge of making them useful again. Repairs are not guaranteed.

Tool Library Saturdays 10am-Noon, Sundays 11am-1pm

<https://tools.greenbeltmakers.org>

Elect **MATTHEW INZEO** to the City Council

On Tuesday November 7

I will appreciate your support.

I am a 30-year resident of Greenbelt.

I live in Greenspring in Greenbelt East and previously resided on Hanover Parkway, Ridge Road and Canning Terrace.

I have served on three City committees, spanning 9 years, and currently serve on the Advisory Planning Board.

My wife Domenek and I are raising four Greenbelt children.

I have been a Prince George’s County police officer for 17 years, and believe my experience can help address the rising crime in Greenbelt.

I pledge to...

- *Work with *Greenbelt Police* and *Public Safety Advisory Committee* to reduce crime, applying advanced technology
- *Advocate for children, including *expanded Recreation activities* and facilities in all parts of the city
- *Support *business, jobs, and economic development*
- *Be *environmentally sensitive* and *oppose the Maglev*
- *Pursue *cost-reduction measures* and work to keep your *property taxes down*
- *Always put *community first*.

“Greenbelt is Great” is not just a slogan.

Volunteers welcome: matthewinzeo@yahoo.com

UTOPIA continued from page 1

Khe (1:30 p.m. Saturday, New Deal Café), as three Vietnam War soldiers on an R&R break discuss their futures – which may include death. Other Utopia films explore the complexities of human relationships and how determination to succeed can overcome obstacles. Interception: Jayne Kennedy, American Sportscaster (4 p.m. Saturday, Greenbelt Cinema) is the tumultuous story of the first African American female sportscaster on network television and her path to that achievement.

The Pink Lagoon (11 a.m. Sunday, New Deal Café) explores the estrangement between 20-something Mariana – who enjoys her life despite the challenge of having Down syndrome – and her hard-charging brother Arturo. Can the siblings find a way to reconnect? Another poignant film about siblings, Wish You Were Here (4 p.m. Sunday, Greenbelt Cinema), is a brother’s letter to his late sister which explores how grief manifests even decades after a loved-one’s passing.

The challenge of human reconnection after the prolonged isolation of the Covid-19 pandemic spurred a unique Cleveland, Ohio, film project. Eighteen Tuesdays (1:30 p.m. Saturday, Greenbelt Cinema) documents a series of 2022 “music-based” group bike rides intended to bring local people together. A short film by Greenbelt artist and filmmaker Sally Davies, Rise Above (4 p.m. Saturday, Greenbelt Cinema), also looks at the virus’s impact through a time-lapse portrait of a woman who suffered long-Covid

symptoms for over a year, as it evokes the uncertainty and isolation felt by millions during the pandemic.

The mystery, magic and endangered fate of the world’s rivers is investigated in several documentaries. Tales of the Boiling River looks at a legendary Amazonian rainforest river said to have spiritual and healing properties, while Two Rivers examines how two courageous women – a Honduran feminist and a Guatemalan community leader – are working to save their territorial rivers. The program including both films starts at 7 p.m. Saturday in the Municipal Building.

Another river film, Shantyboat – Rediscovering a River Way of Life (1:30 p.m. Sunday, New Deal Café) explores the history of a vanished Louisville, Ky., houseboat community on the Ohio River – river workers’ floating “shanty boats” – as it documents an artist’s epic 1940s shanty boat river trip.

The Utopia Festival takes its name from Greenbelt’s origins as an FDR-era “utopian” town, idealistically planned to foster community civic involvement. Each year, an all-volunteer committee evaluates submissions from independent filmmakers to choose works aimed at the Festival’s mission to help build “a better world through film.” See utopiafilmfestival.org.



ROYAL FARMS continued from page 1

few years after federal ownership ended, it was sold into private hands. One of a succession of owners demolished the surviving building in the mid-1960s. Visible ruins remained of the foundations and a cellar hole.

Royal Farms’ 2020 proposal to develop the property triggered a careful archaeological examination of the site, which found a dense accumulation of architectural remains and historic artifacts. As a result, Toaping Castle was officially designated a Prince George’s County Historic Site.

The approval for Royal Farms to go ahead with their proposal was given by the county in January 2021. It states that the historic site “is to be preserved.” A more detailed section cites the Planning Board’s adoption of a series of recommendations from the Historic Preservation Commission which include, among others, the use of a “super silt fence around the historic site during construction” to prevent damage.

Representatives of Greenbelt’s Planning and Community Development office along with a representative of the historic preservation section of the County’s Planning Department, visited the Toaping Castle site on October 10 and saw that no such fence was in place and that there was damage to the site. They found that the contractor’s work was clearly outside the permitted actions. On October 13, the city and the county’s Department of Permitting, Inspections and En-



Walker House (Toaping Castle), seen in this undated photograph, was finally pulled down in the early 1960s.



A fence has now been erected around the historic site, as photographed on October 16.

forcement imposed a stop work order to be in force until the super silt fence was erected around the entire historic site area.

Will there be other consequences? “Yes,” said Terri Hruby, director of planning and community development. Fines are likely to be imposed, she said, by city

and/or county authorities.

As of October 17, there is now protective fencing around the Toaping Castle site and the stop work order has been lifted.





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Staffing, Community Policing, Technology, Kittens and Trucks

by Cathie Meetre

In the Wednesday, October 11 Greenbelt City Council worksession on public safety, City Manager Josué Salmerón introduced Police Chief Richard Bowers, who in turn presented Deputy Chief Tim White, Captain Jermaine Gulledge, Animal Services Director Walter Rivas Solres, Lieutenant Mike Parsley, Lieutenant Mike Apgar and Criminal Incident Team Supervisor Rachel Probyn.

Crime statistics, particularly those including youthful offenders and auto-related offenses are dealt with in a separate article.

Staffing
Setting the scene, Bowers told of the department’s authorized strength of 53 sworn officers, currently at 50 after some resignations, with 24 civilian positions. Speed camera tickets must be approved by a sworn officer, but wherever possible non-sworn staff are used (e.g., technology and records). The city’s police team also includes communications, record specialists and parking enforcement.

Bowers noted that a new academy class was about to start, but that meant 10 months until new officers graduate. A primary function is patrol division, providing day-to-day operations. Gulledge, lead of the patrol division, described their three daily shifts as having each usually six but optimally seven officers. There are nine officers who rotate on night shifts. In addition, Patrol Division deploys Community Action Teams to provide school and bike coverage/patrols as well as evidence units who coordinate managing evidence and investigations. The department is also working on developing canine patrols. Criminal investigators work on rape, robbery and homicide – violent felonies – and the department is anticipating a partnership with the U.S. Marshals Service to apprehend violent and repeat offenders who take up residence here.

Council Support
Councilmember Judith Davis interposed to point out that although Bowers had noted that the number of sworn officers hasn’t increased in 20 years, this is not because council hasn’t authorized additional spending. She added that as soon as the city hires a

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Criminal Homicide	1	3	2	4	0
Rape	3	7	7	10	8
Robbery	31	32	44	47	53
Aggravated Assaults	39	48	50	61	73
Breaking or Entering	33	49	40	59	34
Larceny	389	383	393	490	609
Motor Vehicle Theft.	52	39	76	64	368
	548	561	612	735	1145

DATA COURTESY GREENBELT POLICE

Five years of crime statistics for months January through August show the sudden acceleration in the last two years.

few new officers, an equal number either retire, move on, or have to be asked to leave.

Bowers replied that the department successfully recruits officers, but bigger departments or other investigative agencies with bigger budgets and a larger scope for advancement tempt officers away. He acknowledged they needed innovative ways to keep staff engaged, acknowledging that it’s more cost-effective to retain than train. In response to Councilmember Silke Pope, Bowers said that each new officer costs \$122,000 per year and that, even if they had 70 slots, the positions would be challenging to fill.

Community Policing
Rachel Probyn spoke on community policing and the crisis response teams authorized by council in July of 2022. After a 60-day ramp-up they became one of the only five Maryland jurisdictions with that capability (and the only municipal force). Greenbelt fields two crisis counsellors and a police officer. The current organization is supported by American Rescue Plan Act funds, which will disappear in the future, and the department is hunting for other grant funding.

In addition to working with the public, Probyn and her staff work with mental health staff and peer support for officers, partnering with the Harbor of Grace, which provides services to first responders. They provide support for officers whose duties frequently expose them to traumatic experiences. Officers have a wellness check every two years.

Animal Services
Walter Rivas Solres explained that there is a capacity issue resulting from limited space and below-complement staffing – currently two of three assigned full-time staff plus volunteers. The facility can hold up to six dogs and 16 cats. The office gets 12 to 50 calls per day trying to surrender animals, and if the facility runs out of space animals are referred to the county shelter. Rivas Solres urged those in attendance to spay or neuter their animals.

Commercial Vehicle Parking
In response to Councilmember Rodney Roberts’ question about parking of commercial vehicles, especially in the area near Franklin Park, Bowers replied that the

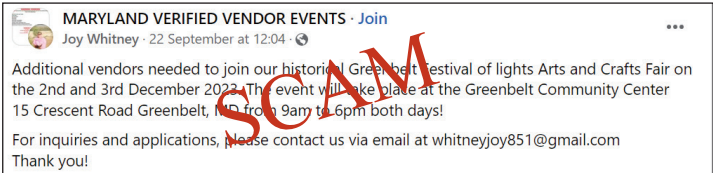
See **WORKSESSION**, page 13

Beware Current Online Scam For City Holiday Market

Greenbelt’s December craft fair organizers report a scam is circulating online, particularly via Facebook, offering vendor space to crafters and food trucks at the holiday market now known as Sparkle Mart. The scam advertises spaces for \$70 to \$95 for the event at the Greenbelt Community Cen-

ter, using the name Festival of Lights with an unlikely image of the silhouette of a female form.

Greenbelt organizers of the December craft fair warn that it is already full with a waitlist, and they neither want additional vendors showing up at the fair nor giving their money to the scammer.



A fake call for vendors for Greenbelt’s holiday craft fair

Talk Health Event At the Library

Monday, October 23, 11 a.m., ages 18+ (adult). Under the supervision of registered nurses, University of Maryland School of Nursing students will conduct free weekly health screenings, referrals, health education and classes on a variety of topics. The topic for this week’s 12:30 p.m. lunchtime discussion is diabetes. The full schedule is available at pgcmls.info/event/8976249.

Crisis Hotline’s Number is 988

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline dialing code is 988. Calls and text messages are confidential and free.

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Wednesday, October 25, 6 p.m., ages 13+ (teen/adult). Learn about the resources that Pratt Library has and how librarians there can help support anyone who has an interest in LGBTQ+ history, culture and pretty much any topic related to the LGBTQ+ community. Register at pgcmls.info/event/9012795.

Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred October 9 - 16, 2023. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an enquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Greenbelt Police Department reported one death, one domestic dispute, one sexual assault and one contact with Child Protective Services. On October 12 near 7800 Mandan Road, a missing person case was resolved.

Juveniles Involved in Attempted Vehicle Theft

On October 9 officers responded to Beltway Plaza for an attempted vehicle theft. Two boys and a girl were caught after a brief foot chase with the help of a Berwyn Heights officer. They were detained, identified and released to their parents pending charges for attempted motor vehicle theft.

Robbery

On October 13 at 2:35 p.m. near 5900 Cherrywood Lane, a boy was followed home from school by a classmate who displayed a knife and demanded his belongings.

Break-in

On October 9 at 1:36 p.m. near 5999 Springhill Drive, a woman found money missing from her nightstand.

Threats

On October 11 at 3:45 p.m. near Hamilton Place, a resident threatened groundskeeping staff by stating if they came into his yard, he would have a buckshot for them, referring to a shotgun.

On October 14 at 7:07 p.m. near 7500 Mandan Road, a juvenile was receiving threatening text messages from another juvenile whom he met online, stating that they were planning to come to the victim's house and shoot it up.

Trespassing Arrest

On October 12 at 5:42 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man who had been banned from the property was arrested for harassing a woman.

Disorderly Arrest

On October 13 at 9:39 p.m. near 6400 Capitol Drive, a drunk and disorderly individual was arrested for throwing things at people and refusing to leave the property.

DUI Arrests

Three drivers this week were given the standard field sobriety tests and displayed multiple signs of impairment, leading to their arrest.

On October 10 at 10:51 p.m. a blue Ford Econoline was sitting still on 495 North. As police approached, the vehicle drove forward and stopped multiple times. The driver had bloodshot eyes and alcohol on his breath, and said he'd had "two beers."

On October 14 at 12:30 a.m. a woman was arrested after crashing her car on the median near Crescent Road and Kenilworth

Avenue.

On October 14 at 2:07 a.m. near Breezewood Drive and Cherrywood Lane, a man was arrested after driving erratically with two flat tires. His eyes were glassy and watery but he denied having any alcoholic beverages despite the odor of alcohol. He then said he only had one at the club.

Fraud

On October 9 near 24 Ridge Road, someone posing as a friend online led to unauthorized charges on a debit card.

On October 13 near 7200 Hanover Parkway, checks did not go through.

Theft

On October 9 near 8150 Lakecrest Drive, items including watches and jewelry were missing from an apartment.

On October 11 at 1:30 a.m. near 6700 Village Park Drive, a woman met a man online who drove her to Greenbelt, stole her phone, and left her there.

Residential package theft occurred October 10 near 1 Westway and October 11 near 5801 Cherrywood Terrace.

Commercial Theft

On October 9 at 3:10 p.m. near 7583 Greenbelt Road, two women stole merchandise.

On October 10 at 1:14 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, two women stole \$500 worth of T-shirts. On October 11 at 2:11 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man stole clothing.

On October 11 at 6:20 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man who had been banned from the store stole several items; charges are being filed.

On October 12 at 2:00 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man stole clothing.

On October 13 at 9:53 a.m. near 7500 Greenbelt Road, a man stole merchandise.

Vandalism of Residence

On October 11 at 2:41 p.m. near 9200 Edmonston Road, a rock was thrown that broke a bedroom window. The resident was home and a camera caught the thrower fleeing by vehicle.

Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicles

Seven vehicles were stolen including two Hyundais and two Kias: on October 10 near 9300 Edmonston Road, a 2021 Kia Forte (Md. 4EZ5742) containing the owner's wheelchair, and also near 9300 Edmonston Road, a 2017 Hyundai Tuscon (Md. 9EM4676) containing military equipment and uniform clothing; on October 11 near 6000 Breezewood Drive, a Hyundai

Elantra (Md. 7EK5638), and near 8003 Lakecrest Drive, a 2018 Infiniti Q50 (Md. 6FP9550); on October 12 near 8009 Brett Place, a 2014 Ford Escape (Md. 1BH1883), and near 9300 Edmonston Road, a 2017 Kia Sorento (Md. 3EW7354); and on October 15 near 6100 Breezewood Drive, a Chevy Suburban (Md. 6BW4290).

Stolen Vehicles Recovered

On October 9, a 2016 Hyundai Elantra, stolen from Laurel, was found near Ora Glen Drive and Ora Court with a damaged window and ignition. On October 10, a 2011 Hyundai Sonata, stolen from Riverdale Park, was found near 7300 Hanover Parkway with a damaged window and ignition. On October 13, a stolen Hyundai was observed driving with a window broken, and recovered near 7800 Mandan Road.

Attempted Theft of Vehicle

Five vehicles had windows broken and ignition damaged: a 2018 Hyundai Accent near 5807 Cherrywood Terrace; a 2017 Kia Forte near 6105 Breezewood Court; a vehicle near 9300 Edmonston Road; a Hyundai Elantra near 8009 Mandan Road; and a 2011 Kia Sportage near 34 Crescent Road.

Theft from Auto

Airbags were stolen from five Honda Civics: on October 10 near 8100 Lakecrest Drive; on October 11 near 7700 Lakecrest Drive; on October 14 near 9100 Edmonston Court, 6200 Springhill Drive and 6200 Springhill Court.

Tags were stolen on October 11 near 5900 Cherrywood Lane (Md. 6FG8409), on October 13 near 9000 Breezewood Terrace and on October 15 near 6000 Greenbelt Road.

On October 14 near 8200 Canning Terrace, all four tires were stolen from a Honda Civic, and on October 15 near 6400 Ivy Lane, the rims were stolen from a Toyota Corolla.

On October 10 near 8000 Greenbelt Station Parkway, personal items were stolen including a laptop and tablet. On October 12 near 200 Lastner Lane, a vehicle was rummaged through. On October 13 near 6100 Springhill Terrace, personal items were stolen. On October 13 near 9100 Edmonston Terrace, a laptop was stolen.

Vandalism of Vehicle

Near Southway and Ridge Road, a vehicle had a broken window. Near 8000 Mandan Road, a vehicle's seats were cut open, the mirror was torn off and the dashboard was damaged. Near 121 Centerway a vehicle had two punctured tires.

Missing Greenbelt Teenager Located, Others Still Missing

Five youths who were part of an organized outing to Skate Zone in Crofton on Saturday became critical missing persons when the group is thought to have run away during the outing. One of those missing was 13-year-old Braden "Kai" Heagy, from Greenbelt. Kai was located Wednesday afternoon, after four days missing. Police have also safely located the eldest member of the group, 17-year-old Benjamin Bundy.

The five teens were last seen together at approximately 4:15 p.m. on Saturday, October 14 at

the Skate Zone at 1082 Crain Highway in Crofton. On Monday, 48 hours after the disappearance of the group, the Anne Arundel County Police Department released a flyer depicting the five, noting that due to their ages there are concerns for their well-being. At the time of press, the youths who remain missing are Fuzeah "Zeah" Alquthami, 13, Aiden Jones, 15, and Avery Pearson, 16.

Anyone with information on their whereabouts is asked to contact the Anne Arundel County Police Missing Persons Unit at 410-222-4731.

CRIME continued from page 10

were in dealing with Hispanic youth and the increasing percentage of Hispanic residents. Bowers described a push to provide bilingual materials and noted that Officer Erick Alvarez is a

bilingual community officer who interacts extensively with Hispanic families in his assigned area. Some officers speak French or Bengali.



A bee enjoys the pollen from a very late-blooming daylily.

PHOTO BY CAROL GRIFFITH



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Council and DPIE Investigate Mutual Issues at Worksession

by Cathie Meetre

On September 20, Greenbelt City Council met in a worksession with the Prince George’s County Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE). Mayor Emmett Jordan noted the long-term and continuing problem of excessively long lead-times for permits (quoting up to a year for Use and Occupancy permits) and difficulties integrating city and county requirements. Among the DPIE representatives were Lori Parris, senior advisor; Yvette Gayles, information technology; and Robert Gentry, enforcement.

Three major topics occupied the meeting: rent stabilization, permits and short-term rentals. In all cases, DPIE suggested using the county’s 311 system to get assistance; see princegeorges-countymd.gov/departments-offices/community-relations/pgc311.

Rent Stabilization

The county council earlier this year passed a one-year rent stabilization bill, enforced by DPIE, that limits rent increases to 3 percent. Interpretation of this has proved thorny, partly due to whether and how utilities are included in the rent. If a landlord raises the rent by what the renter believes is more than 3 percent, the renter may appeal the increase and request a hearing – but must pay the additional rent while their appeal progresses or be subject to eviction procedures.

This has become a Greenbelt issue due to recent turbulence over Charlestowne North apartments, whose new owners (who inherited many empty apartments) recently began dividing the utility bill among the occupied apartments, significantly raising tenants’ monthly payments. Greenbelter Jenni Pompei wondered if the residents could request a collective review, but Parris replied that although perhaps a meeting with DPIE could be arranged as a group, each renter’s case would have to be dealt with separately.

Momentum Permit System

Parris introduced the department’s new permit application system, which tracks permit applications from initial submission to approval. Parris noted that as patterns of delay emerge, the data from Momentum can help DPIE address chokepoints. She also stated that organizations applying who were not locally based or who were using architects and engineers based outside the area were often delayed due to incomplete local knowledge. She encouraged applicants to utilize locally-based vendors. Parris

pointed out that the system provides information to all classes of users: DPIE itself, applicants and the public.

Gayles explained that Momentum is a multi-year implementation currently running in parallel with the legacy system (ePermits) which will stay in place until the permits it holds are closed out. New applications go into Momentum. The changeover, however, has resulted in increased volume of questions and a steep learning curve. As of October 12, there was a message on the DPIE website noting significant delays in permitting. In response to a question from Jordan, Parris stated that a separate Business Development office in DPIE was focused on helping small businesses navigate the process.

Homeowner Permits

Councilmember Rodney Roberts inquired about homeowner permits, asking how Momentum affects them. Parris explained that the walk-in system was still available but, since Covid, office traffic has significantly dropped and she commented that “millennials prefer to do everything online.” In addition, the Virtual Permit Center is designed for homeowners, offering a one-or-two-day review process where DPIE staff assist applicants online.

Municipal Input

Jordan brought up the city’s permit requirements: that those requesting permits first apply to the city. Parris explained that DPIE has no authority to enforce a city-based permission step. Jordan pointed out, as a result, permits are issued without the city knowing of the development. Greenbelt Director of Planning and Community Development Terri Hruby explained that her office receives a list of county

permits issued and can crosscheck to see which ones they already have information on and proceed accordingly. DPIE representatives noted their willingness to work with the city to coordinate but reiterated that they could not enforce a city regulation.

Short Term Rentals

DPIE’s Gentry spoke to the growing issue of short-term rentals through Airbnb and similar online vendors, though Hruby noted that there were only a couple of known instances in Greenbelt. Permits allow only 90 or 180 days of short-term rental per property in a year, depending on occupancy by the owner. All such rentals must be in a house that is the primary residence of the owner, and the platform used (e.g., Airbnb or VRBO) must be licensed in the county. Applications require documentation and, for condominiums or cooperatives, the organization’s bylaws must permit this use.

Food Trucks

DPIE no longer enforces food truck hubs after recent legislation but confirmed to Hruby that the city can create its own restrictions for food truck operation and location, subject then to the city’s oversight and not the county’s. To vend on private property, the truck owner must have permission. Parris said that it is likely that the statute will undergo more revisions and should be considered a work in progress.

Bonnie Schrack assisted in researching this story.



ARPA continued from page 7

allocated for Outdoor Recreational Amenities to purchase an event stage and risers for roughly \$16,350 to replace those recently determined to be unsafe.

Scholarships

Earlier in the meeting, council recognized the 29 recipients of the ARPA Education Scholarships. A few were present at the meeting with others attending virtually.

Transportation

Council approved sending comments to the Maryland Department of Transportation on the draft 2024 – 2029 Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP). The letter strongly opposes the SC Maglev project and widening of I-270 and the Capital Beltway. The letter also expresses the city’s disappointment about once again excluding funding for the Md. 193 – University Boulevard Project, which was placed on hold in 2002 and remains there despite being designated a high priority project by the county government.

Mayor Emmett Jordan suggested adding a request to increase the frequency of trains on the MARC Camden Line and requesting mitigation at the

Purple Line construction zone on East-West Highway, saying the road is “practically undriveable.”

Proclamations

Jordan presented proclamations declaring October Cooperative Month, Breast Cancer Awareness Month and recognizing October 9 as Indigenous Peoples Day in Greenbelt.

Royal Farms

City Manager Josué Salmerón noted that the property next to the Honda dealership on Greenbelt Road has been cleared for the Royal Farms convenience store and gas station. While agreeing that the sight of the site has been shocking, he told council that the extent of tree clearing was in compliance with the plans approved by the county.

(The city did not learn until later that week that the fence to protect the Historic Site of Toaping Castle had not been constructed as required. See story, p.1.)

Other Actions

Council approved without discussion as part of the consent agenda a renewal of the News Review’s lease at the Community Center.



PHOTO BY JOHN OF COASTAL KAYAK

Katrina Boverman took the News Review with her as she kayaked across Little Assateague Bay to Fenwick Island, Delaware.

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PHOTO COURTESY NESHAMA SOLOMON

Marti Galvin brought the Greenbelt News Review to Stanley, Virginia, where she and others attended a wedding. From left, Meghan Lotierzo, Aaron Solomon, Marti Galvin, Neshama Solomon and Harry Schomberg. The Shenandoah River is hiding behind the trees in the background.



PHOTO BY FRED EDWARDS

Mary Murchison-Edwards poses with the News Review at Pilot Mountain State Park in Pinnacle, North Carolina.

Candidates Sought For Co-op Board

Greenbelt Consumer Cooperative (GCC) will conduct its election at its annual meeting on Saturday, November 4 at 10:30 a.m. in the Community Center gym. Members interested in serving as directors can pick up nomination forms at the customer service office in the Co-op Supermarket. Return the completed form and biography to the Co-op’s customer service office or email to board@greenbelt.coop by Sunday, October 22. GCC does not accept nominations at the annual meeting.



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WORKSESSION continued from page 9

\$50 fine and the impound fees were considered by the truckers merely a normal cost of doing business. Roberts appeared to be concerned that smaller vehicles, such as a small contractor’s pickup, would be swept up in the same way. However, Bowers explained that only large vehicles – larger box trucks and 18-wheelers – were subject to the fines and towing. But smaller vehicles were subject to the 14-day parking limit. Bowers noted that somewhere to keep these large trucks was a clear need not currently met locally.

Technology

Bowers described plans to use license-plate reading cameras. Criminals use stolen cars when committing crimes, and being able to spot a bogus or stolen license plate heading into town is a way to rapidly deploy a police presence. As an example, he pointed out that the original area of Greenbelt has only three ways into the city – via Southway and Lakecrest from Greenbelt Road and Crescent Road at Kenilworth. Greenbelt Station has a single access. The live alert can catch a stolen car crossing the barrier or assist in investigating prior incidents. The new systems allow search by color and other refinements.

The Public Safety Advisory Committee is in support of a camera network; it’s funded, and Salmerón says he is expecting proposals. Meeting participants were surprised that the cost of a license-plate reader was only about \$5K per camera everything included; about 20 cameras are anticipated.

Comments from the Floor
Resident Justin Baker spoke from the floor in full support of the license-plate readers. He noted that, “We can’t arrest our way out of crime.” He stated he thought the court system was failing residents, especially the juvenile court, and suggested a public investigation into their negligence. He also referred to two recent incidents in Greenbelt Center, and requested that the area get its “fair share” of routine patrols.

Resident Bill Orleans asked about reporting and the newer system that the FBI favored (National Incident Based Reporting). White explained that, in fact, Maryland required the older one so they were reporting in both modes. Prince George’s County also required its own reporting. White hoped that these inconsistencies would be resolved by the new year and result in reporting based on the FBI format.

Mayor Emmett Jordan asked about the traffic dashboard. Bowers said it is available online already but only updated monthly. The second is the crime data dashboard which is in the troubleshooting phase so it is not yet publicly available.

In a lively debate on CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies) – the quality level against which police departments are measured – Davis was emphatic in her desire that Greenbelt remain at the high level it had achieved for many decades. Bowers suggested that maintaining consistency with over 400 requirements, many of which did not apply to a municipal entity, was something that should be reconsidered. He said that most local jurisdictions maintain the standard one level lower than Greenbelt’s. Davis remained unconvinced.



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Saturday, November 4, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.
Greenbelt Community Center Gym
15 Crescent Rd. Greenbelt, MD 20770


According to the Co-op's bylaws, 25 members constitute a quorum. In the absence of a quorum, those present can schedule another meeting, which can proceed even in the absence of a quorum.

Note: Voting members have \$100 or more in their member capital account.



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- CITY INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS** - Continue to invest in maintaining and improving our aging infrastructure
- CITY CONNECTIVITY** - We must find a way to improve and connect transportation across all parts of the city
- NEW GREENBELT FIRE STATION** - Continue to pursue acquisition of the Greenbelt MD National Guard Armory site to be used for a new city fire department facility and other city office space

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November 7th, 2023

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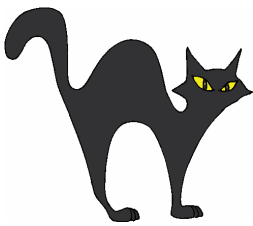
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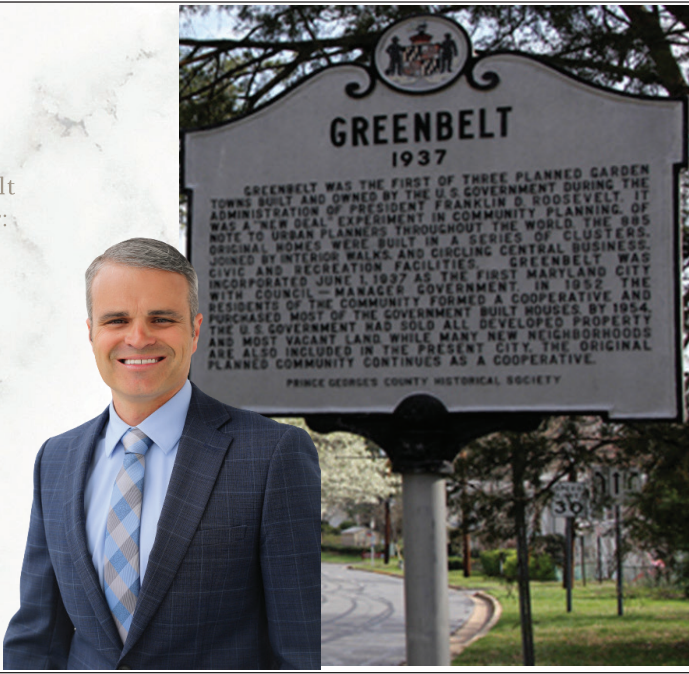


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Sports

ERHS Girls Soccer Team Still on a Roll

by Patrick Gleason

As the soccer season heads into the final week of the regular season, hoodies and blankets have started to populate the sideline in response to the now regular fall weather. But the Eleanor Roosevelt High School Raiders soccer program continues to produce results that provide just as much warmth – catalyzed by the evident bond between teammates. Both the junior varsity and varsity squads enjoyed victories over Laurel High School on October 12. The JV notched an 8-0 win with plenty of excitement and celebration as Iris Gaycken, Anna Grim and twins Yadira and Karina Reyes Carranza each scored their first goals of the season. Freshman forward Alima Kargbo netted two goals herself, while classmates Treasure Wogu and Julia Visnic also added to the impressive Raider total.

The varsity squad celebrated senior night with a 4-0 triumph in honor of the graduating class including Kaia Booker, Victoria Obisesan, Angel Ngwane, Riley Rios, Azaria Muhammad, Olivia Gills, Ella Galban and manager Mia Maniece. The Raiders controlled the game from the start with early goals from juniors Sadie Swart and Jada Savage along with a lone goal from the Spartans. Juniors Gabriella Martinez and Alyssa Casey combined for the Raiders’ second-half tally, a lofted one-touch shot from Casey that dropped in over the Laurel keeper. The comfortable victory initiated a night of celebration that followed with a dinner and gifts commemorating the senior class.

The Raiders closed the week with a Friday night tournament featuring the Connelly School of the Holy Child Tigers and the Elkton High School Golden Elks.

Roosevelt controlled the first game with Holy Child, guided by Swart’s hat trick. Two of her goals came after Tiger defenders fouled Savage in the box, resulting in penalty kick conversions, which Swart calmly slotted into the corner of the net. Sophomore Claudia van der Have assisted Swart’s other goal as the Raiders earned their ninth victory of the season. Elkton defeated Holy Child 3-0 in the middle game, while the Raiders and Golden Elks fought to a 0-0 tie in the finale.

Then, on October 16, Roosevelt defeated an overmatched Northwestern 6-0. Freshman Claire Alolga scored twice, while van der Have, Autumn Freeman, Mahalet Dejenie and Obisesan joined in the scoring fun. Obisesan, the team captain and three-year starter at centerback, scored her first goal of the season with a well-placed shot from distance after a Raider corner kick. Both teams travel to Oakland Mills on October 19 where they will seek to continue generating their own warmth, regardless of the weather.



Sophomore Addison Green, wearing no. 20, has captained the junior varsity squad to a successful season thus far.

Senior Angel Ngwane, in white, and the ERHS Raiders now have a record standing at 10-1-1.



- Photos by Vanessa van der Have

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HUG Walk Connects Greenbelt Residents from West to East

by Cavit Ireland

Greenbelt residents joined together on Sunday, October 15, at this year’s annual Help Unite Greenbelt (HUG) Walk. Dozens joined the pack and held signs with positive messages as their route connected the city.

Some picked up trash, others pushed strollers and everyone wore a smile.

The sun dipped in and out of the clouds as participants made their brisk stroll. The walk began at the entrance to Indian Spring Trail on Cherrywood Lane at 1:30 p.m. and stopped at a few locations along the way: Springhill Lake Recreation Center, Buddy Attick Park, Roosevelt Center, Greenbriar Community Center, Windsor Green Community Center, concluding at Schrom Hills Park.

Festivities at the end included music from the tie-dye-clad HONK! Situation band, cake and laughter.

More people joined the walk this year than last, according to Pat Astill, a member of the Greater Greenbelt Volksmarchers, a local branch of the noncompetitive, international fitness walking club known as volksmarching. Astill loves how friendly everyone in Greenbelt is and thinks it’s amazing how a lot of different people come together for a good cause. The HUG Walk allows community members to meet each other, get exercise and promote positivity through acts of kindness and selflessness, says Astill.

“You know, Greenbelt was built as a walking community,” Astill explained. She and other volunteers lined the route with sky blue HUG and Volksmarch signposts.

The walk allows residents to visit parts of Greenbelt they normally don’t explore, furthering the connection between all parts of the city and its people. Aileen Kroll, a spokesperson for the event, said one goal of the walk is to break down divisions among Greenbelt.

The tradition, which began in 2019, is “the embodiment of Greenbelt,” said Kroll. “Somebody has an idea and they just bring it to fruition,” she explained. Kroll credits the impact of the HUG Walk to the care of the volunteers and Robert Goldberg-Strassler. “This particular walk is all Robert’s mission,



Walkers arrive at Springhill Lake Recreation Center, a stop along the route of the HUG Walk on October 15.

Two members of the Greenbelt PLEASE Department escort walkers.



bringing people together,” she said.

Goldberg-Strassler founded the organization Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness (RUAK) in 2017. “This is one of the many, many things he does for the community, like picking up trash throughout all of Greenbelt all year round,” Kroll said. RUAK was one of 65 co-sponsors of this year’s walk.

Greenbelt was built as a Green Town, back in 1937. Three Green Towns were built in the U.S. in the 1930s in an attempt to provide affordable housing to the working class as the Great Depression ended. The result is a city with a mix of urban and suburban life. “Eleanor Roosevelt really spent a lot of time watching the development of Greenbelt,” said Astill.

Kroll believes the spirit of Greenbelt is strong and deep-rooted. “The social justice core of Old Greenbelt remains from 1937 clear through to the present time, as evidenced by all of this,” she said. “Everything that many of us do is all about ‘What do we need to do to make things better?’”

Cavit Ireland is a student with the University of Maryland’s Philip Merrill College of Journalism writing for the News Review.



The Step Off with Joe Parks on the drum and Robert Goldberg-Strassler of RUAK, organizer of the annual HUG Walk



Greenbelt HUG Walkers celebrate their arrival at Schrom Hills Park with cake and music from the Greenbelt HONK! Situation.
- Photos by Judy Goldberg-Strassler

Dear Greenbelt neighbors,

I am writing to ask for your vote on November 7th. Two years ago I promised that I would put myself in the best position I could to fight the proposed BEP industrial development on the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC). Subsequently, another Greenbelt resident and I filed a NEPA lawsuit against the U.S. Treasury.

I am happy to report that because of our lawsuit, Treasury has been forced to abandon its plans to dump 120,000 gallons of polluted wastewater daily into Beaverdam creek, an action that would directly affect thousands of our residents in Greenbelt west. The Treasury now says they will dump their wastewater into the WSSC sewage system.

To date I have spent \$42,000 dollars on legal expenses with \$12,000 from contributions and \$30,000 from my city retirement fund. The fight is not over, but I know that if enough Greenbelt residents put their minds to it we can still save BARC. If you would like to help save BARC, you can contribute to the Save BARC legal defense fund, and/or write to President Biden at the White House to ask that BARC be given national monument status via executive order.

Thank you for your help and I would really appreciate your vote on November 7th so I can continue my work on behalf of Greenbelt.

Sincerely,
Rodney M. Roberts

Contributions or Information: Joseph O'Brien, Treasurer - 6T Ridge Road
By Authority of Candidate



Re-Elect Mayor Emmett Jordan

“Over the years, I’ve been a consistent and measured voice on the Council, dedicated to preserving the town’s legacy. I work to learn about new issues facing Greenbelt and to understand the feelings of residents throughout the city.

I’m engaged in regional activities that impact Greenbelt and have strong, well-established working relationships with our representatives from the county, state, and federal government.

Our city faces many challenges, including our on-going recovery from COVID 19 economic impacts, adjusting to shifts in the demographics of the city, and continuing our thoughtful stewardship of our environment. Enhancing public safety and addressing regional crime trends is foremost in most Greenbelters’ minds.

My priority is to effectively run the Council, so that we can work together for the community’s best interests and reach our individual goals. I’ve steered the Council towards coherence throughout my tenure. I will continue to provide the balanced and time-tested leadership that Greenbelt deserves.

As a consistent and steady voice on Council, I remain committed to the Greenbelt’s legacy while focusing on our future” - Emmett V. Jordan



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